AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-51 (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) A method for transferring substances between layers of fluid or gas, said method comprising

i. providing a device comprising

a. at least one convective layer comprising a fluid or gas of interest, wherein said at least one convective layer has a thickness between 1 mm and 5 cm when treating liquids and within 0.1 and 2 mm when treating gas, and

b. at least one receiving layer, comprising fluid or gas to which receiving layer or from which receiving layer the substances are transferred,

ii. passing a fluid or gas through said device, wherein said fluid or gas of interest within said at least one convective layer is running in a direction parallel to said at least one receiving layer, and wherein fluid or gas in said at least one receiving layer is either:

a. stagnant, or

b. running in another direction, and/or running with a different speed, when compared to the fluid or gas in said at least one convective layer,

iii. allowing substances to be transferred to or from said at least one receiving layer without said receiving layer being percolated by said fluid or gas of interest of the convective layer, and

iv. obtaining a fluid or gas of interest in said at least one convective layer from which or to which said substances are transferred.

53. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 52, wherein the receiving layer is positioned below the convective layer.

54. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 52, wherein the substances are transferred to the at least one receiving layer due to sedimentation, mixing layer mass flow, and/or diffusion.

55. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 54, wherein the substances are retained within the receiving layer by precipitation, sorption or any other retention mechanism.

56. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 54, wherein the receiving layer further has an affinity for the substances.

57. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 52, where the filter further comprises a second receiving layer adjacent the convective layer and opposite the first receiving layer.

58. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 52, where at least one receiving layer comprises material selected from the list consisting of sand, gravel, perlite, vermiculite, anthracite, activated carbon, charcoal, limed soil, iron-enriched soil, diatomaceous soil, chitin, chitosan, pozzolan, lime, marble, clay, iron-oxide-coated minerals, double metal-

hydroxides, LECA, rockwool, glasswood, zeolithes, fly ash, soil, humus, bark, lignin, compost, leaves, seaweed, algae, alginate, xanthate, peat moss, bone gelatin beads, moss, wool, cotton, other plant fibres, and combinations thereof.

59. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 52, wherein the convective layer is empty space.

60. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 52, wherein the at least one convective layer comprises a mass of random filament-type plastic fibers with a density which is sufficient to support the filter unit without significant collapse, but allow water to pass freely therethrough.

61. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 52, wherein the hydraulic conductivity of the convective layer is at least 1.1 times the hydraulic conductivity of the receiving layer in the main flow direction.

62. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 52, wherein the liquid to be filtered comprises waste water, industrial waste water, urban waste water, highway runoff, stormwater.

63. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 52, wherein the liquid to be filtered comprises urban waste water, highway runoff, road runoff and/or stormwater.

64. (Currently amended) A device for transferring substances between layers of fluid or gas, said device comprises at least one unit of a filter, said unit of a filter comprising

i. at least one convective layer comprising a fluid or gas of interest, wherein said at least one convective layer has a thickness between 1 mm and 5 cm <u>when treating liquids and within 0.1 and 2 mm when treating gas</u>,

ii. at least one receiving layer comprising fluid or gas to which receiving layer or from which receiving layer the substances are transferred,

wherein said fluid or gas of interest within said at least one convective layer is running in a direction parallel to said at least one receiving layer, and wherein fluid or gas in said at least one receiving layers is either:

a. stagnant, or

b. running in another direction, and/or running with a different speed, when compared to the fluid or gas in the convective layer,

and wherein said substances are transferred to or from said at least one receiving layer without said receiving layers being percolated by said fluid or gas of interest of the convective layer.

65. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 64, further comprising a second receiving layer adjacent the convective layer opposite the at least one receiving layer, being a sandwich filter.

66. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 65, comprising a stack of sandwich filters, the stack comprising at least 2 sandwich filters.

67. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 64, comprising a stack of alternating convective/receiving layers.

68. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 64, wherein an impermeable layer surrounds the device to seal it from the surroundings on all surfaces except the inlet and outlet.

69. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 64, wherein the receiving layers comprises material selected from the group consisting of sand, gravel, perlite, vermiculite, anthracite, activated carbon, charcoal, soil, limed soil, iron-enriched soil, diatomaceous soil, chitin, chitosan, pozzolan, lime, marble, clay, iron-oxide-coated miners, double metal-hydroxides, LECA, rockwool, zeolithes, fly ash, bark, lignin, compost, seaweed, algae, alginate, xanthate, peat moss, bone gelatin beads, moss, wool, cotton, other plant fibres, combinations thereof, and modifications thereof.

70. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 64, wherein the convective layer comprises a mass of random filament-type plastic fibers with a density which is sufficient to support the device without significant collapse, but allow water to pass freely there through.

71. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 70, wherein the convective layer comprises a polyethylene or polyester fibrous mesh.

72. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 64, wherein the convective layer comprises a mass of open-structured plant fibers with a density which is sufficient to support the device without significant collapse, but allow water to pass freely there through.

73. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 64, further comprising a pump for pumping liquid or gas through the filter unit.

74. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 64, further comprising a pre-filter adapted to remove particulate material from the liquid or gas prior to passing the liquid or gas into the filter.

75. (Previously presented) Use of the device according to claim 64 for filtering wastewater.

76. (Previously presented) Use of the device according to claim 64 for filter gas (flue gas, waste gas, exhaust gas).